Remarks/Arguments

The Rejection of Claims 2-11, 14-16, 19-22, 24-33, 36-38, and 41-44 Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 2-11, 14-16, 19-22, 24-33, 36-38, and 41-44 under 35

U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,339,767 (Rivette et al.) in view of

U.S. Patent No. 6,154,725 (Donner) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,751 (Rivette et al.) and

further in view of [further reference not named in the Office Action]. Applicants assume the

Examiner intended to cite U.S. Patent No. 6,401,206 (Khan et al.) in the preceding incomplete

sentence.

Claim 11

Claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 12, which depended from

Claim 11 and has been cancelled. The Examiner objected to Claim 12 as being dependent upon

a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that this claim would be allowable if rewritten

in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Therefore, Claim 11 is allowable.

Claims 2-10, 14-16, and 19-22, dependent from Claim 11, also are allowable.

Claim 33

Claim 33 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 34, which depended from

Claim 33 and has been cancelled. The Examiner objected to Claim 34 as being dependent upon

a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that this claims would be allowable if rewritten

in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Therefore, Claim 33 is allowable.

Claims 24-32, 36-38, and 41-44, dependent from Claim 33, also are allowable.

Applicants courteously request that the rejection be removed.

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Attorney Docket No. IPCP:107US U.S. Patent Application No. 09/931,492

Reply to Final Office Action of March 23, 2006

Date: April 17, 2006

The Objection of Claims 12, 13, 17, 18, 23, 34-35, 39, and 40 as Being Dependent Upon a Rejected Base Claim

Claims 12, 13, 17, 18, 23, 34-35, 39, and 40 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 11 is allowable. Therefore, Claims 13, 17, and 18, dependent from Claim 11, no longer depend upon a rejected base claim. Claim 33 is allowable. Therefore, Claims 35, 39, and 40, dependent from Claim 33, no longer depend upon a rejected base claim. Claims 12 and 34 have been cancelled. Claim 23 was cancelled in the July 5, 2005 reply.

Applicant request that the objection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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